

THE SHAKESPEARE PROJECT OF CHICAGO

the world in words

PRESENTS

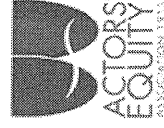
50 Minute MACBETH

from William Shakespeare

adapted and directed by
Mara Polster

50 Minute Macbeth

September 29 - 30, 2007
The Newberry Library
The Wilmette Public Library
The Highland Park Public Library



All Actors with The Shakespeare Project of Chicago
are members of Actors' Equity Association, the union
of professional actors and stage managers.

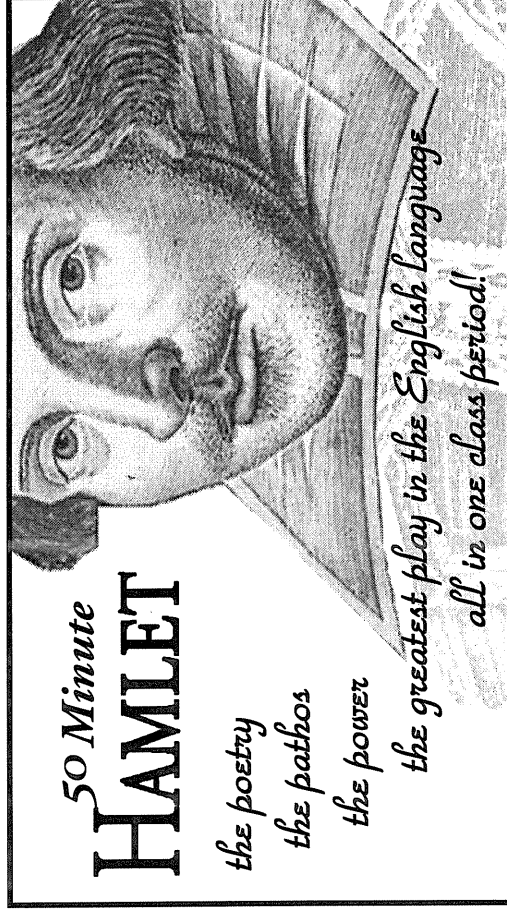
About The Shakespeare Project of Chicago

The Shakespeare Project of Chicago was founded by actress and director, Mara Polster, in May of 1995 to address the lack of opportunities for students, seniors and the less affluent to experience -- and the local theater community to perform -- the timeless works of William Shakespeare and other great dramatists. We resolved to develop a theatrical reading format that would challenge classically-trained actors to emphasize textual work, and that could eventually be utilized as a way to successfully reach the people of the Chicago area -- regardless of income, waning eyesight, or other factors that had precluded one from benefiting from these works. Today, our mission strives to attain three goals: (1) To provide to our community, free or easily affordable professional performances of the works of William Shakespeare and other great dramatists; (2) To create the opportunity for professional actors to explore this great literature; and (3) To provide exceptional theatre experiences for audiences and artists by maintaining an artistic emphasis on the language of the plays and skill of the actors, all of whom are members of Actors' Equity Association.

We made our public debut with *Macbeth* in 1995, and within four years produced the entirety of Shakespeare's canon. Our 1997 Season (The History of the English Kings) traversed the breadth of the great Elizabethan history plays in chronological order: *King John*, *Edward II* (by Christopher Marlowe), *Edward III* (authorship uncertain), *Richard II*, both parts of *Henry IV*, *Henry V*, all three parts of *Henry VI*, and ending with *Richard III*. To date we have performed nearly 70 plays by Shakespeare, Goethe, Marlowe, Moliere, Ibsen, Wilde, Dickens and Maugham.

In 1999, we presented our first fully-realized production, *Hamlet*, and our first original adaptation, *My Name Is Will* (a musical celebration of William Shakespeare's sonnets and songs by Peter Garino, with music by Christopher Walz - both Founding Members). Garino's adaptation of Shakespeare's dark narrative poem, *The Rape of Lucrece*, was performed in 2001 and *50 Minute Hamlet* (adapted and directed by Jeff Christian, who was appointed Artistic Director in August of 2002) debuted in spring of 2002. Christian has since adapted and directed *The Cricket on the Hearth* (Dickens), *Ghosts* (Ibsen), *The Parvenu* (from Moliere's *Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme*) and *Faust* (from Marlowe and Goethe). *50 Minute Hamlet*, which became a fully-realized production in 2003, tours Chicago area schools and is the cornerstone of our educational outreach program. This year we add *My Name Is Will*, and our newest adaptation, *50 Minute Macbeth* to our list of school offerings.

We are thrilled to continue our fantastic partnerships with The Newberry Library, The Wilmette Public Library and The Highland Park Public Library -- and have forged long-term relationships with them all. Please visit our website at www.shakespeareprojectchicago.org for further information.



DOUBLE, DOUBLE TOIL AND TROUBLE,
FIRE BURN AND CAULDRON BUBBLE.

50 Minute
MACBETH
from William Shakespeare

THE WORDPLAY, WARFARE AND WITCHCRAFT
BOILED DOWN TO 50 MINUTES.

50 Minute Shakespeare

www.shakespeareprojectchicago.org

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Thank you to our Benefactors!

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(\$10 - \$49)

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Ellen J. Bennett
Judy Blue
Paul R. Burkhardt
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This program is
partially supported by
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Marlon St. John

Kori Skidmore

Joseph Patrick Sweeney

Christopher Walz

Christopher Wilson

James P. Wilson

Michael Aaron Wilson

Nita Lee Wilson

50 Minute MACBETH from William Shakespeare

[Dramatis Personae

in order as they appear herein

Three Witches, the Weird Sisters..... Lady (Duff, Mac)

Macbeth

Generals of the King's army

Banquo

A Messenger, from the King Duncan..... Lady

Lady Macbeth..... Lady

A Messenger, from Macbeth..... Duff

Porter, a drunken doorkeep of Macbeth's house Duff

Macduff, a nobleman of Scotland Duff

Apparitions, visions appearing to Macbeth Lady

A Messenger, of Macbeth's..... Lady

Kinsman, of Macduff, a nobleman of Scotland Lady

Cream Faced Loon, a servant of Macbeth's..... Lady

Witness, one of Macbeth's household..... Duff

Scene: Scotland; England]

The Players

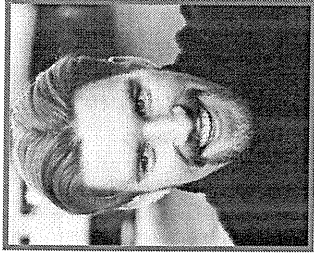
MacNathan M. Hosner

Lady Laura St. John

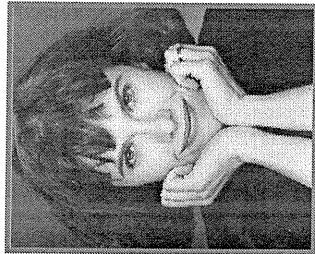
DuffMark Ulrich

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This Month's Artists



Nathan M. Hosner (Mac) is very pleased to be returning to The Shakespeare Project, where he has also been seen in *Henry IV and V*, *The Winter's Tale*, *Love's Labors Lost*, *The Parvenu*, *Macbeth*, *Ghosts*, and *The Merchant of Venice*. Recent credits include Tartuffe in *Tartuffe*, Stephano in *The Tempest*, Jack in *The Importance of Being Earnest* and Jaques in *As You Like It* at Door Shakespeare, Prince/Paris in *The People vs. Friar Lawrence* and Antipholus of Ephesus in *Comedy of Errors* at The BoarsHead Theatre, Jim Taylor/Harry Lombardi in *The Only Thing* at Madison Repertory Theatre's New Play Festival, Edmund in *King Lear* and Duke Frederick in *As You Like It* at the Illinois Shakespeare Festival, as well as a role on *As The World Turns*.



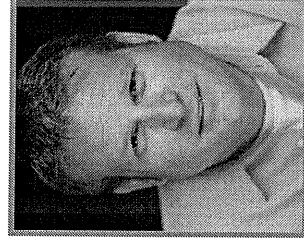
Laura St. John (Lady) is pleased to perform multiple roles (including Lady Macbeth and all three Witches) in The Shakespeare Project's *50 Minute Macbeth*, which will be presented in Chicago area schools throughout this year. She can also be seen regularly as Gal in *50 Minute Hamlet*. Laura has worked with The Shakespeare Project of Chicago since 1999 performing such roles as Jacquanetta (*Love's Labours Lost*), Lady Macbeth (*Macbeth*), Calpurnia (*Julius Caesar*), 3rd Witch (*Macbeth*), the Player Queen (*Hamlet*) and directing *The Winter's Tale* and *Twelfth Night*. She became Education Director in 2002, overseeing the student outreach programs and fostering relationships with schools throughout the Midwest. Laura is a writer and teaching artist for Reading In Motion, an arts based reading program serving the children of the Chicago Public Schools. She is a founding member of New World Repertory Theatre and a collaborator on the children's book *Through the Cracks* (Davis Publications).



Mark Ulrich (Duff) is pleased to be back with The Shakespeare Project where he has happily been involved in more readings over the last dozen years than he can remember. He's fairly sure there was a *King Lear* in there somewhere. And a *Merchant Of Venice* perhaps. Mark's stage credits include appearances at Northlight, The Goodman, Rivendell, Drury Lane, and Noble Fool, among others. He is also proud to be an associate artist with Chicago Dramatists.

This Month's Artists

Mara Polster (adapter and director) is very proud to have been part of this project. She thanks Jeff Christian and the incredibly talented group of artists who contributed their talents to the development of *50 Minute Macbeth*. In addition, Mara is delighted that The Shakespeare Project's educational arm *50 Minute Shakespeare*, headed by Laura St. John, is now scheduling performances in its fifth school year. Mara started The Shakespeare Project of Chicago in May of 1995 and during her tenure as Artistic Director, guided The Project through the entirety of William Shakespeare's canon within the first four years, and over 50 productions. She has directed numerous plays for the project. Favorites include *King Lear*, *Hamlet*, *As You Like It*, *Richard III*, *Timon of Athens*, *Taming of the Shrew*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Julius Caesar* and of course, *Macbeth* -- four and a half times before this one. She has played some of the great Shakespearean women, like Emilia, Tamora, Margaret, Paulina, Isabella, Katherina and Lady Macbeth for the project and has acted on many of the other stages here in Chicago and across the country. She is a graduate of The Webster University Conservatory of Theatre Arts and Dance in St. Louis Missouri. Mara thanks her husband, founding member Chris Wilson, for continuing to support this madness, and her two brilliant and beautiful men-children Michael and Nathan for teaching her about love and the meaning of life. The Shakespeare Project of Chicago began as the grateful commemoration of Samuel E. LaMacchia and continues in memory of Michael Alan Wilson and Board Member, Chuck Lippitz.



Jeff Christian (Artistic Director) leads the company into his sixth season, having adapted and directed *Faust* (from Marlowe and Goethe), *The Parvenu* (from Moliere's *Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme*), Ibsen's *Ghosts*, Dickens's *The Cricket on the Hearth*, the outreach program *50 Minute Hamlet*, as well as having staged *King Lear*, *Love's Labours Lost* and Somerset Maugham's *The Constant Wife* for the company. Other directing credits include *A Whistle in the Dark* (Seanachai Theatre Company), *Proof* and *Driving Miss Daisy* (New American Theater), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *The Two Gentlemen of Verona* (Lakeside Shakespeare), the national touring production of the interactive comedy *Sister Bernice's Bingo Bash*, both parts of *Angels in America* (The Journeyman); co-director and actor, sharing in three Jeff Awards and an After Dark Award) and James Krag's touring one-man show, *According to Mark* (which helped raised over \$16,000 for Habitat for Humanity). Acting credits with The Shakespeare Project include Brutus, Buckingham, Proteus, Mercutio, Bassanio, Antonio in *Twelfth Night*, Hamlet in *50 Minute Hamlet*, and one of the four actor/singers in *My Name is Will*. He writes and directs live action and animated sequences for the Emmy Award winning Digital Kitchen, serves as a creative consultant to Tessera Publishing and teaches at The Artistic Home (on whose Advisory Board he serves). Recent film work includes *Batman Begins*, *Witches' Night*, *The Poker House*, *The Express* and *Pickman's Muse*. He earned a BBA in Marketing and a BA in International Relations from The University of Wisconsin, and is currently acting in Seanachai Theatre Company's downtown production of Roddy Doyle's *War*.

A discussion of the play will follow this performance.

You are all welcome.

Please stay, meet the cast, and share your ideas and questions.